



**Northeast  
corner of 6<sup>th</sup>  
and Nebraska**

**First Presbyterian Church, c. 1912**

The First Presbyterian Church began holding service in 1856 and built a church at the northeast corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Nebraska in 1875. That building was razed and the current building was constructed in 1907. Their church bell presumably came from a sunken steamboat, the “Kate Kearney.” Also in Sioux City is the Prospect Hill Monument which was dedicated to three Presbyterian ministers who came to Sioux City in 1869 for a meeting at the First Presbyterian Church and who, on Prospect Hill, knelt in prayer and dedicated their lives to missionary work in the west.



**Southwest  
corner of 7<sup>th</sup>  
and Nebraska**

**First Methodist Episcopal Church, 1890**

The First Methodist Episcopal Church occupied this building from 1883 to 1916. It razed soon after the church relocated to a new structure at the northwest corner of 19<sup>th</sup> and Nebraska Streets. Its most famous minister, Rev. George C. Haddock, came to Sioux City to preach at this church in 1885. Because of his stance against alcohol, he was shot and killed at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Water Streets in downtown Sioux City on August 3, 1886.

**The Nebraska Street Walking Tour brochure is one in a series of walking tour brochures funded by Missouri River Historical Development (MRHD).**

**For more information about these buildings or Sioux City history, please contact the Sioux City Public Museum Research Center  
607 4th Street, Sioux City, Iowa  
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*Take a  
step back  
in time...*

# **Nebraska Street Walking Tour**



**Looking north on Nebraska Street  
from Third Street, c. 1912**

**Start** the walking tour from the parking lot at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Pierce and walk along 3<sup>rd</sup> Street toward the east to Nebraska. Turn left on to Nebraska and walk north.

## Main Streets in the Heart of the City

The heart of any city, usually the downtown or civic district, has one or two of the busiest streets that are designated the “main” streets. In the past, people walked or rode horses along Nebraska Street, Pierce Street or Douglas Street coming into downtown after having arrived on a steamboat or a passenger train. With the advent of automobile traffic and its designation as a one-way street, Nebraska Street became the “main” thoroughfare for north-bound traffic from the state highways and interstate system.



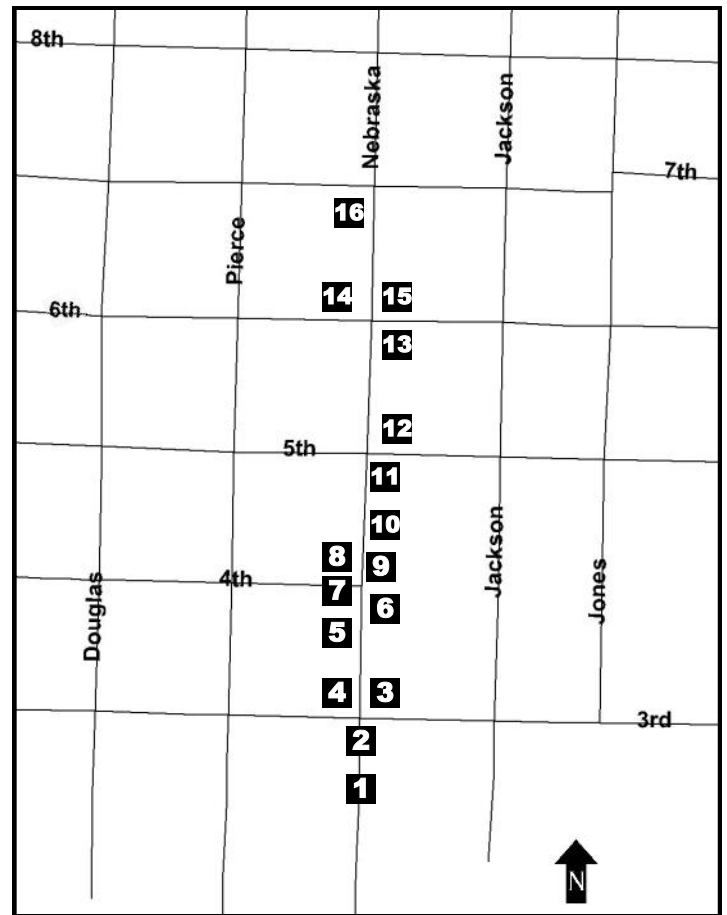
*An aerial view of the railroad tracks running east-west and the main downtown streets running north-south.*

**Warehouse Business District, c. 1958**

Throughout the years, business along this primary artery in the city’s central business district boomed. Some of the most well-known and respected business ventures in the city’s history were at one time located along Nebraska Street. Its proximity to the railroad depot made the area north of the railroad tracks along 3<sup>rd</sup> and Nebraska Street an ideal warehouse district. Warehouses, such as the Tolerton & Warfield warehouse and the Knapp and Spencer warehouse on Nebraska Street stored either grocery or hardware supplies for retail companies.

Hotels, such as the Howard, West, and Warrior, were popular stops for businessmen and tourists alike. Banks, such as the Toy Bank and Security National Bank, attracted local residents and businesspeople to downtown. Theaters and motor marts lined Nebraska Street long before they relocated to the suburbs. One of the major retail businesses in Sioux City, the T. S. Martin Department Store, was located at one of the major intersections in downtown Sioux City, which was Fourth and Nebraska Streets.

In the 1970s, an urban renewal project which included a pedestrian mall changed the face of Nebraska Street. Today, with buildings such as Ho-Chunk Centre and the Martin Luther King Transportation Center, Nebraska Street continues to be one of the “main” streets bringing people into the heart of Sioux City.



**Map of Downtown Sioux City**

**Buildings listed in *italics* are no longer in existence.**



**Looking north on Nebraska at 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**View of Third Street, c. 1931**

All of the buildings in this photograph no longer exist. On the left is Tolerton & Warfield warehouse (which would have been on the southwest corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Nebraska). Across 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to the north would be the West Hotel. Across Nebraska Street to the east from the West Hotel was the Howard Hotel (later named the Mayfair Hotel). On the far right of this photograph is the Knapp and Spencer warehouse (which would have been on the southeast corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Nebraska).



**Northeast corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Nebraska**

***Howard (Mayfair) Hotel, 1937***

The Howard Hotel (and the annex built in 1912) was renovated in the 1930s and renamed the Mayfair Hotel. The Mayfair, which also housed the Sioux City Auto Club (AAA), was razed in the 1960s.



**Northwest corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Nebraska**

***West Hotel, c. 1925***

The West Hotel was built in 1905 at the northwest corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Nebraska Streets. The hotel became part of the Eppley chain of hotels, managed by William Wachter, who later managed the Martin Hotel for the Eppley Hotel Company. Wachter then re-opened and managed the New Mayfair Hotel across the street from the West Hotel. The West Hotel was burned in 1953.



**Southwest corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Nebraska**

***Toy National Bank, 1912***

Early Sioux City banker James F. Toy built this bank in 1908 after the Toy Building burned in the Pelletier Fire of 1904. Mr. Toy was president of the Toy National Bank and the Farmer's Loan and Trust, both of which were housed in this building. The Toy National Bank building was razed in 1972 in order to build a new Toy National Bank on the same corner in 1974. The bank occupied the building until it closed in 1990. Internal Medicine Associates (later Siouxland Internal Medicine) was housed in the building until Central Bank purchased it in 2003.



**Southeast corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Nebraska**

***Brown Block (Moore Clothing Co.), 1908***

The original Brown Block, housing the Moore Clothing Co., was destroyed in a fire which claimed the lives of two firemen on March 26, 1914. A wall of the building collapsed during the blaze pinning Seeley Lawton and Frank Fulton (sometimes referred to as Ryan) under the rubble. The renovated and expanded Brown Block housed Weatherwax, a men's clothing store. That building was demolished in 1976 as part of the Central Business District (CBD) East Urban Renewal Project.



**Northwest corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Nebraska**

***Security National Bank, c. 1912***

Founded in 1884, Security National Bank built this structure in 1893. It was designed by William McLaughlin, who also designed several buildings on Historic Fourth Street. The bank was razed in 1945 and was replaced by a one story building that housed Grand Jewelers for many years. Security National Bank then moved into the Trimble Block at 6<sup>th</sup> and Pierce where it is located today.



**Northwest corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Nebraska**

***Grand Jewelers, c. 1957***

This one story building, which housed Grand Jewelers for many years, replaced the seven story Security National Bank building at the northwest corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Nebraska. This photograph of Fourth Street shows the businesses between Nebraska and Pierce on the north side of Fourth.



**Northeast corner of 4th and Nebraska**

***T. S. Martin Department Store, 1928***

Thomas S. Martin started the Martin Department Store in 1880 with his brother James P. Martin and George E. Westcott. It became one of Sioux City's largest and most recognizable department stores. After his death in 1915, his three sons built this structure in 1919. The department store was bought by Younkers Co. in 1957 and became known as the Younker-Martin Department Store. It was razed in 1970 as part of an urban renewal project.



**Northeast corner of 5th and Nebraska**

**Ryal Miller Chevrolet Company, 1920**

The building, constructed in the late 1919, was first known as the Kemp Building and housed a variety of businesses including automobile sales, tire sales, a bakery, café, grocery, and the Yellow Cab Co. before it became Ryal Miller Chevrolet in 1922. Ryal Miller Chevrolet merged with Duane Kidder to become the Miller-Kidder Co. (which later became Kidder-Knoepfler and more recently, Knoepfler Chevrolet).



**East side of Nebraska between 4th and 5th Streets**

***Capitol Theater, 1955***

This building housed many theaters after it was built in 1912 including the Isis Theatre, U.S.A. Theatre, and the Orpheum Vaudeville Theatre before it became the Capitol Theatre. It was built by the Martin family and razed along with the Martin Department Store in 1970. The site became the west side of the J. C. Penney & Co. building on Nebraska Street until it was renovated into the Sioux City Public Museum facility in 2011.



**Southeast corner of 6th and Nebraska**

**Bennett's Motor Mart (Commerce Building), 1915**

The Commerce building was originally constructed as Ralph A. Bennett's Motor Mart Building in 1912. It housed his auto supply company and was equipped with a 10' x 20', 6,000 lb. freight elevator designed to hoist automobiles to various levels within the building. The original elevator was dismantled in 1966 and replaced by a new freight elevator. When A.L. Galinsky purchased the building in 1919, it became the new headquarters for the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce. From then on it was known as the Commerce building. The peaked penthouse portion on the roof was built in 1921 and originally housed Tom Archer's Roof Garden. During the 1930s, it became a music hall and dance club called the Skylon Ballroom. Lawrence Welk and his band performed there in 1939.



**Looking south on the east side of Nebraska Street**

***Buildings between 4th and 5th Street, c. 1967***

The T. S. Martin Co. Department Store is on the right; the Capitol Theater is in the middle of the block and the two smaller buildings on the left of the photo housed various businesses over the years, including a hotel, café, meat market, grocer, jewelers and the Rathskeller Lounge. All these buildings were torn down in 1970 as part of an urban renewal project called CBD West (Central Business District west of Jackson Street). CBD West was part of a federally funded plan called the "General Neighborhood Renewal Plan" directed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). There was also a CBD East, which was the downtown renovation east of Jackson Street.



**Northwest corner of 6th and Nebraska Street**

**Warrior Hotel, 1955**

Constructed as the Fontenelle Hotel in 1930, it was known as the Warrior Hotel by the time it opened in 1931. Omaha hotel magnate Eugene C. Eppley purchased the Warrior during the mid-1930s. Eppley Hotels sold the Warrior to the Sheraton Corporation of America in 1956, after which time it was called the Sheraton-Warrior. In the late-1960s Sioux City contractors Joseph and Frank Audino purchased the hotel and renamed it the Aventino Motor Inn. Restoration of the Warrior began in 2017 for a re-opening in 2020.